

Serial No.: 09/852,332

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have herein cancelled claims 1-3, 6-9, 12-15 and 20-23. Applicants have herein amended claims 4, 10, 16, and 18. Claims 4, 5, 10, 11, and 16-19 will remain in the application after entry of this amendment. Allowable subject matter has been found by the Examiner. No additional fee is due. Applicant hereby requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks made below.

The Examiner has objected to informalities in claims 4, 8, 10, and 18. Applicants have cancelled claim 8 herein, and have corrected the informalities in claims 4, 10, and 18, following the Examiner's suggestions. Applicants have also noted a similar informality in claim 16, and have corrected it.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6-9, 12-15, and 20-23 as lacking novelty under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent 6,014,567 to Budka. While not necessarily agreeing with the Examiner, Applicants have cancelled all of the claims so rejected.


Applicants note that the Examiner has stated that claims 4-5, 10-11, and 16-19 are allowed, subject to correction of the informalities previously discussed. Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's attention to and assistance with this application. Being that the non-allowed claims have been cancelled, the present application should now be in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance is hereby requested. If the Examiner has any questions or anticipates not allowing the application due to some matter that Applicants have overlooked, a telephone interview is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4 Jan 05

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